

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: St. John's Lutheran Church Inventory Number: G-V-A-058  
Address: Garrett Highway Rt. 2 Box 159 Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ X no  
City: Oakland Zip Code: 21550 County: Garrett  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Table Rock MD/WV  
Property Owner: St. John's Lutheran Church Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 26 Tax Map Number: 95  
Project: Roth Rock Wind Power Project; Garrett Co. Agency: MD Public Service Commission  
Agency Prepared By: Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.  
Preparer's Name: Merry Stinson Date Prepared: 1/6/2006  
Documentation is presented in: MIHP# G-V-A-058, Maryland Coal Region Historic Sites Survey, 1981  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ X Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ X no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Property and Justification:** *(Please attach map and photo)*

St. John's Lutheran Church is built in a T-shape, with an entrance tower in the northeast corner. The gable-roofed building stands on a basement that is rusticated concrete block in some sections, and uncoursed stone elsewhere. The building features Gothic-arched stained glass windows. Slate covers the roof, and vinyl siding sheathes the walls. As noted by in the MHT Coal Region survey in 1981, the first church was built on this property in 1820, replaced by a second building in 1864. The current church was built in 1903. The cemetery is located west of the church. The 1981 Maryland Coal Region Survey form notes that this church appears similar to St. John's Lutheran Church in Cumberland.

**Evaluation:**

This church is not associated with local events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history nor significant persons of the past. While the church has been associated with the Lutheran citizens of the Redhouse area, there is no available documentation that suggests that it was particularly significant individually in the community's history (Criterion A). There is also no available documentation that the church building is representative of the lives of any individuals important in local, regional or national history (Criterion B). It is the third church building on the property, and thus does not represent the

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒ X  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

**MHT Comments:**

Jonathan Bay  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

6/26/06  
Date

Blunt  
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/28/06  
Date

200601643

founding or founders of the community. While it retains its original form, roofing material and windows, the application of vinyl siding, trim and soffits alters the exterior character and diminishes visual integrity. Therefore the church is recommended as not individually eligible for the National Register. With its general form, design and setting intact, and its prominent location near the Redhouse intersection, however, it contributes to a potential Redhouse National Register Historic District.

Archaeological assessment, Criterion D, was not a part of this evaluation of above-ground resources.

#### History/Context:

Redhouse developed at the intersection of the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) and the Great Warrior's Path (U.S. Route 219). In about 1832 a two-story frame inn was built at this junction, on the property now occupied by G-V-A-43, the Benjamin F. Knepp Barn, on the southeast corner of the intersection. The red-painted "Red House" tavern and the surrounding hamlet served stagecoaches, covered wagons, settlers, cattle drovers, and other travelers at the busy intersection. The tavern property included a drovers' pasture for use by patrons' herds. Also near the intersection was a tollgate for the turnpike, the only one for the Northwestern Turnpike in Maryland. The original tavern operator was Frederick C. Carstens, who sold the Red House to Peter Shirer in 1841. Then the B & O Railroad made its way through Oakland about eight miles to the north in 1852. Eventually the railroad superseded the highways' freight-hauling function and wagons and drovers dwindled at the Redhouse intersection. Peter Shirer sold the Red House to Jacob Swartzentruber in 1855, who owned it through the Civil War. During the war, soldiers confiscated livestock and forage from the tavern and from surrounding farms. The next owner was Christian Martin who demolished the tavern, and in 1890 transferred the property to his son-in-law William Knepp. In the 1920s, Benjamin Knepp, William's son, acquired the property. Benjamin Knepp removed the house that Christian Martin built and constructed the current dwelling on the property, a stone gambrel-roofed house. He also built the gas station in the northwest corner of the Redhouse intersection, G-V-A-045. Adjacent to the gas station stands the Redhouse school and next to it is St. John's Church, an integral part of the crossroads community. Although the present church building dates from 1903, the original Lutheran church on the site was built in 1820, before the tavern and turnpike were constructed.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

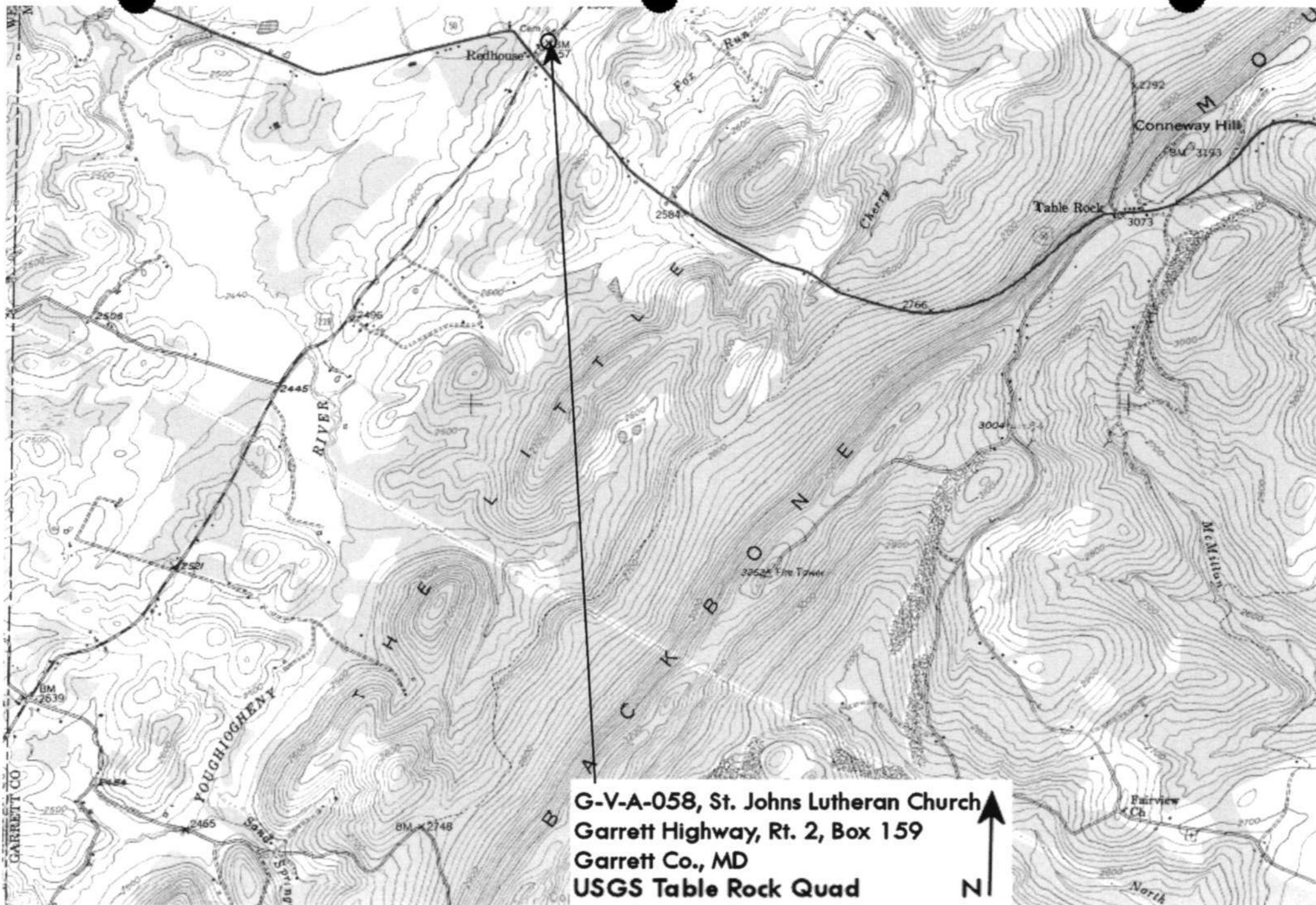
MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





G.V.A. 058  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Garrett Co. MD  
Merry Stinson  
8/29/05  
MD SHPO  
SW & SE elev. s  
1 of 3



G-V-A-058

St. John's Lutheran Church

Garrett Co., MD

Paula Reed

4/06

MDSHPO

S W view

2 of 3







G-V-A-058

St. John's Lutheran Church

Garrett Co., MD

Paula Reed

4/06

MDSHPO

NE view, Church and cemetery

3 of 3

G-V-A-058

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Redhouse  
Private

1903

St. John's Lutheran Church, built in 1903, is situated at an elevation of 2500 feet at the southern end of Pleasant Valley. It is a frame gable roofed church based on an asymmetrical T-plan. The wing of the "T" is offset on the facade (SE elevation) by a square tower with a steeply pitched pyramidal roof that flares outward at the eaves. A gable-roofed altar projection extends from the center of the rear, northwest elevation.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

St. John's Lutheran Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 219, west side, near intersection with Route 50

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Redhouse

VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

G-V-A-058

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Lutheran Church, built in 1903, is situated at an elevation of 2500 feet at the southern end of Pleasant Valley. It is a frame gable roofed church based on an asymmetrical T-plan. The wing of the "T" is offset on the facade (SE elevation) by a square tower with a steeply pitched pyramidal roof that flares outward at the eaves. A gable-roofed altar projection extends from the center of the rear, northwest elevation.

The main entrance into the church is through the tower. The door is covered by a Gothic arch door hood that flares outward at the eaves and is supported by diagonal braces. The door has a Gothic arch stained glass transom which reads: "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church." Another entrance is located on the facade, southwest of the "T" wing. The door has a Gothic arch stained glass transom which reads: "Welcome." The basement can be reached through an entrance on the northeast elevation of the church.

The main block of the church rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation. The wing of the "T" and the altar projection rest on uncoursed stone foundations. The basement, added at a later date, explains for the newer concrete block foundation.

The walls are covered with asbestos shingles and the roof with grey slate shingles. A brick chimney pierces the ridgeline of the wing.

There are 3 large Gothic arch stained glass windows with tracery. Two pierce both gables ends of the main block and the third adorns the gable end facade of the wing. The remaining windows are stained glass lancets. Two small, new windows pierce the southwest elevation of the wing just below the eave line.

A cemetery is located southwest and northwest of the church. The Parsonage (See G-V-A-059) is located northeast of the church.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

G-V-A-058

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Lutheran Church was constructed in 1903. It is similar in design to the St. John's Lutheran Church in Cumberland, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

G-V-A-058

Wentz, Abdel Ross. History of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland of the United Lutheran Church in America 1820-1920. Harrisburg; Evangelical Press, 1920.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

10-82

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438







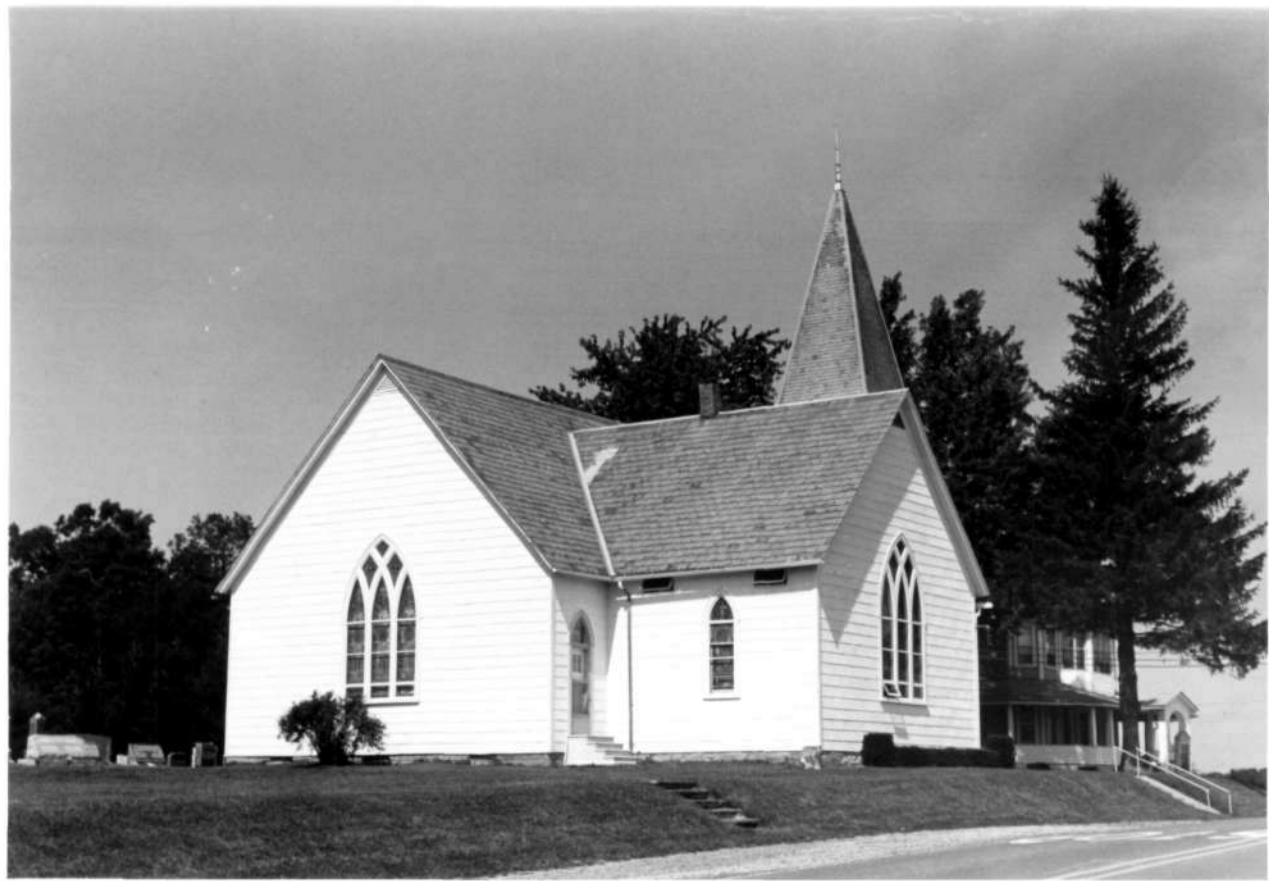
G-V-A-058

St. John's Lutheran Church

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware September 8, 1980

NE elevation



G-V-A-058

St. John's Lutheran Church

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware September 8, 1980

SE elevation



G-V-A-058

St. John's Lutheran Church

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware September 8, 1980

NW elevation (rear)





G-V-A-058

St. John's Lutheran Church

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware, September 8, 1980

SE elevation